

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is believed to be responsive to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2004. In that Action: claims 86-186 were pending. Claims 86, 87, 94, 99, 100, 102-106, 108, 115, 120, 124, 134, 139, 143-147, 157, 162, 166, 168, 169, 180, 181, 185, and 186 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dickey, et al. (USPN 5,821,405); claims 88, 107, 109, 126-128, 149-151, 170, and 171 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Dickey, et al. and Brundage; claims 89-93, 95-97, 101, 110-114, 116-118, 121-123, 129-133, 135-137, 140-142, 152-156, 158-160, 163-165, 175-179, and 182-184 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Dickey, et al. and Owens (USPN 5,995,020); and claims 98, 119, 125, 138, 148, 161, and 167 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but noted as allowable if rewritten into independent form.

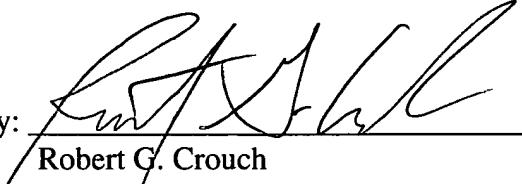
In this Amendment, claims 86-97, 99-118, 120-124, 126-137, 139-147, 149-160, 162-166, 168-177, and 179-186 have been cancelled. Claims 98, 119, 125, 138, 148, 161, 167, and 178 have been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the claims upon which they previously depended. As to all of these amended claims but claim 178, their allowability had previously been noted. Claim 178 has been rejected as unpatentable over the combination of Dickey and Owens. However, claim 178 had depended from claim 167, which was previously noted as allowable. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 178 in its previous dependent form as well as in its current independent form is allowable.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone

conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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